

100% of a mixture of Free-B-Ring flavonoids; wherein said composition is isolated from a plant selected from the Labiatae family, the *Scutellaria* genus and the *Scutellaria baicalensis* species and wherein said inhibition results in reduced inflammation conditions and symptoms.

20. (amended) The method of claim 19 wherein said Free-B-Ring flavonoids are isolated from a plant part.

22. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition of Free-B-Ring flavonoids is administered in a dosage selected from 2.0 to 200 mg/kg of body weight.

23. (new) The method of claim 19 wherein the composition of Free-B-Ring flavonoids is administered in a dosage selected from 2.0 to 200 mg/kg of body weight.

24. (new) A method for inhibiting the cyclooxygenase enzyme COX-2 comprising administering to a host in need thereof a composition comprised of 10% to 100% of a Free-B-Ring flavonoid; wherein said composition is isolated from a plant selected from the Labiatae family, the *Scutellaria* genus and the *Scutellaria baicalensis* species.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein said Free-B-Ring flavonoid is isolated from a plant part.

26. (new) The method of claim 25 wherein the plant part is selected from the group consisting of stems, stem barks, twigs, tubers, roots, root barks, young shoots, seeds, rhizomes, flowers and other reproductive organs, leaves and other aerial parts.

27. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein the composition of Free-B-Ring flavonoid is administered in a dosage selected from 2.0 to 200 mg/kg of body weight.

28. (new) A method for inhibiting the cyclooxygenase enzyme COX-2 comprising administering to a host in need thereof a composition comprised of 10% to 100% of a Free-B-Ring flavonoid, wherein said composition is isolated from a plant selected from the Labiatae family, the Scutellaria genus and the *Scutellaria baicalensis* species and wherein said inhibition results in reduced inflammation conditions and symptoms.

29. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein said Free-B-Ring flavonoid is isolated from a plant part.

30. (new) The method of claim 29 wherein said plant part is selected from the group consisting of stems, stem barks, twigs, tubers, roots, root barks, young shoots, seeds, rhizomes, flowers and other reproductive organs, leaves and other aerial parts.

31. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the composition of Free-B-Ring flavonoid is administered in a dosage selected from 2.0 to 200 mg/kg of body weight.

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#### REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of December 2, 2002, claims 1, 4 and 19-20 are hereby amended and claims 22-31 are added. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 19-21 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by Nakajima *et al.* (2001) *Planta Med* 67:132-135, Krakauer *et al.* (2001) *FEBS Letters* 500:52-55, Kimura *et al.* (2001) *Planta Med* 67:331-334, Chi *et al.* (2001) *Biochemical Pharmacology* 61:1417-1427 or Chen *et al.* (2001) *Biochemical Pharmacology* 61: 1417-1427; under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Li *et al.* (2000) *Immunopharmacology* 49:295-306 or Meybeck, U.S. Pat. No. 5,643,598 and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Xinxian, U.S. Pat. No. 6,290,995; Newmark *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,264,995; Newmark *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 6,391,346;